

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

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BONN PASS AMBASSADOR WALKER ON ARRIVAL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE MEETING ON AGRICULTURE IN THE MTNS

REF: A. STATE 258158

B. GENEVA 8153

C. GENEVA 7926

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF THE DENT/
SOAMES COMPROMISE WAS INCONCLUSIVE, WITH THE FRENCH ARGUING THAT THE
COMPROMISE WAS INCONSISTENT WITH THE COMMUNITY'S MANDATE, THE BELGIANS

AND THE IRISH MAINTAINING THAT IT WAS CONSISTENT BUT REQUESTING
"MINOR CHANGES" IN WORDING AND ALL OTHER MEMBER STATES AND THE
COMMISSION URGING ACCEPTANCE. THE MATTER IS EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN
UP SHORTLY BY THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES
(COREPER). END SUMMARY.

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2. THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 3 ENDED WITHOUT A

CLEAR CONSENSUS. THE MEETING OPENED WITH A ROUND-TABLE PRESENTATION OF VIEWS. THE BRITISH LED OFF SAYING THAT THERE WAS NO HOPE OF A COMPLETELY SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE WITH THE AMERICANS ON THIS ISSUE BUT THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO FIND A PROCEDURAL DEVICE TO ALLOW DISCUSSIONS OF SUBSTANCE. MOST OTHER DELEGATIONS AGREED WITH THIS INTERPRETATION. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH STATED THAT THE COMPROMISE WORDING WAS INADMISSIBLE AND INCONSISTENT WITH THE COMMUNITY'S MANDATE FOR THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. THE IRISH AND THE BELGIANS GRUMBLED ABOUT SPECIFIC WORDS. BOTH FOR EXAMPLE FELT THAT THE WORD "COLLABORATE" IMPLIED SUBORDINATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL GROUP TO OTHER GROUPS AND SUGGESTED THAT THE PHRASE BE CHANGED TO SOMETHING SUCH AS "...WILL ENDEAVOR TO ARRIVE AT A HARMONIOUS AND BALANCED DEVELOPMENT..." NEITHER THE IRISH NOR THE BELGIANS AGREED WITH THE FRENCH INTERPRETATION THAT THE COMPROMISE WAS INCONSISTENT WITH THE MANDATE.

3. AFTER THE COMMENTS BY THE MEMBER STATES HIJZEN MADE A STRONG STATEMENT OF SUPPORT. HE SAID THAT THE TEXT WAS NOT SATISFACTORY TO HIM EITHER. IT WAS NEITHER LITERARY NOR ELEGANT. IT INCLUDED WORDS THAT HE DID NOT LIKE, BUT IT DID NOT EXCEED THE MANDATE. IT WAS A RESULT OF A COMPROMISE WHICH WAS THE BEST THAT COULD BE EXPECTED AND NO AMENDMENTS SHOULD NOW BE MADE.

4. OUR SOURCES (FROM TWO FRIENDLY MEMBER-STATES DELEGATIONS) STATED THAT THE NEXT PROCEDURAL STEP IS NOT CLEAR. (NOTE: THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE IS AN ADVISORY BODY NOT A DECISION-MAKING ONE.) THEY SUSPECT THAT THE FRENCH WILL RAISE THE ISSUE AT THE COREPER, POSSIBLY ON NOVEMBER 4, AND THEY MAY DECIDE TO BRING THE MATTER UP IN THE COUNCIL. THE COMMISSION WILL THEN NEED TO DECIDE WHETHER IT CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE COMPROMISE IF SEVERAL MEMBER STATES ARE STILL INSISTING UPON AMENDMENTS OR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES.

5. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THE ADDITIONAL DISPUTE ON REPORTING OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS (PARAGRAPH 4, REFTEL B). THE MAIN REASON FOR THIS WAS THE REPORT BY AT LEAST ONE MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVE THAT THE APPROACH FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HAS BEEN CATEGORICAL IN SUGGESTING THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE TEXT OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPROMISE. BOTH OUR SOURCES WERE ADAMANT, HOWEVER, IN MAINTAINING THAT THE POSITION OF THE SUPPORTERS IN THE COMMUNITY OF THE COMPROMISE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLY WEAKENED BY THE SUBSEQUENT DISPUTE ON REPORTING OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. THEY SAID THAT US INSISTENCE ON THIS POINT WOULD MAKE IT LESS LIKELY THAT THE COMMISSION AND THE OTHER MEMBER STATES WOULD BE WILLING TO FACE DOWN THE FRENCH AND TALK THE BELGIANS AND IRISH OUT OF THEIR AMENDMENTS.

GREENWALD

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